

Draft Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee October 27, 2010
Southern Nevada Water Authority, 100 City Parkway

Attending

Perri Benemelis	Brenda Burman	Vikki Dee Bradshaw
George Caan	Linda Carbone	Kate Cherry
Mike Gazda	Chuck Cullom	Terry Fulp
Sonja Kokos	Bill Lamb	Allen Haden
Trish McCraw	Bruce Moore	Terry Murphy
Judi Nielsen	Wade Noble	Theresa Olson
Nicole Bolton	Larry Purcell	Michael Remington
Terry Sue Rossi	Bill Singleton	Jon Sjoberg
Ed Smith	John Swett	Laura Vecerina
Jason Thiriot	Laura Simonek	Fred Worthley
Chuck Paradzick	Sara Price	Doyle Wilson
Kirk Koch		

Attending Via Conference Call

Pat Barber	Lesley Fitzpatrick	Maureen George
Doug Fant	Chris Hayes	Tab Bommarito
Buster Johnson		

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:34 a.m. by Chairperson George Caan. There were self-introductions of all attending.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was amended to add Public Outreach efforts under Other Items. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve June 23, 2010 Meeting Notes

The June 23, 2010 Meeting Notes were approved. (Moved by Perri Benemelis, seconded by Maureen George, and adopted by consensus.)

2. WORK PLANS AND BUDGET

FWS Letter on FY11 Work Plan

John Swett reported that Reclamation received the July 23, 2010 letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accepting the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Fiscal Year 2009 Accomplishment Report and determining that the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2011 Work plan and Budget meets the conservation requirements and is consistent with the LCR MSCP section 10(a)(1)(A) permit and biological opinion.

New Work Task – Hunter’s Hole

John Swett reviewed the Hunter’s Hole project, as outlined in PDD 11-001, for inclusion into the LCR MSCP as a new conservation area. He stated that this was a good opportunity to include a project located in Reach 7. The Yuma County National Heritage Area obtained funding from the Arizona Water Protection Fund for the planning, design, and construction of the project. It is being proposed that the LCR MSCP maintain the site. The cost to the LCR MSCP would be \$30,000/yr to maintain the 50 acres of cottonwood-willow established on the site. The Steering Committee approved Resolution 11-001 recommending that the project be included within the LCR MSCP.

(Moved by Brenda Burman, seconded by Jon Sjoberg, and adopted by consensus).

3. MINOR MODIFICATION TO HCP

John Swett reviewed Section 14.1 in the Implementing Agreement which allows for minor modifications to be made to existing conservation measures. This can be done with approval by the Steering Committee and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. John presented the following program decision documents to the Steering Committee for approval

PDD 11-002 Razorback Sucker Stocking Strategy

This would change conservation measure RASU3 to increase the timeframe for the experimental augmentation from 5 years to 10 years. Additional survival studies and resolution of production issues are needed before experimental stocking is initiated. Increased timeframe will allow for identified research to be completed. Total fish stocked will remain the same.

(Moved by Jon Sjoberg, seconded by Perri Benemelis, and adopted by consensus).

PDD 11-003 Bonytail Stocking Strategy

This would change conservation measure BONY3 to increase the timeframe for the experimental augmentation from 5 years to 10 years. Additional survival studies and resolution of production issues are needed before experimental stocking is initiated. Increased timeframe will allow for identified research to be completed. Total fish stocked will remain the same.

(Moved by Wade Noble, seconded by Perri Benemelis, and adopted by consensus).

PDD 11-004 Blackrail Habitat Location Requirements

This would change conservation measure BLRA1 to increase the number of reaches where restoration could occur from Reach 5 and 6 to Reaches 3,4,5,6, and 7. Recent Monitoring and research data have expanded the known distribution of the California black rail.

(Moved by Chuck Cullom, seconded by Perri Benemelis, and adopted by consensus).

PDD 11-005 Sticky Buckwheat Funding Support

This would change funding from going to the Clark County MSHCP Rare Plant workgroup to an ongoing Conservation Program or other entity approved by the USFWS. The Clark County MSHCP Rare Plant workgroup no longer exists.

(Moved by Jon Sjoberg, seconded by Wade Noble, and adopted by consensus).

PDD 11-006 Threecorner Milkvetch Funding Support

This would change funding from going to the Clark County MSHCP Rare Plant workgroup to an ongoing Conservation Program or other entity approved by the USFWS. The Clark County MSHCP Rare Plant workgroup no longer exists.

(Moved by Jon Sjoberg, seconded by Wade Noble, and adopted by consensus).

4. FLAT TAILED HORNED LIZARD LAND

John Swett reviewed Program Decision Document 10-001, passed in October 2009. PDD 10-001 authorized Reclamation to secure 230 acres of existing unprotected occupied flat-tailed horned lizard habitat within the Salt Creek ACEC. Because acreage available within the Salt Creek ACEC consists mostly of small parcels, it is being proposed that the program decision document be revised (PDD 10-001 r) to include the Yuma Desert ACEC, the East Mesa ACEC, and the West Mesa ACEC.

(Moved by Chuck Paradzick, seconded by Michael Remington, and adopted by consensus)

5. PROJECT UPDATES

E27: Laguna Division Conservation Area

Allen Haden from Natural Channel Design provided an update on the Laguna Division Conservation Area project (power point is posted at www.lcrmscp.gov under Technical Reports, Work Task E27, Updated Power Point 8/27/10). Allen stated that they were currently designing the preferred alternative and that the project would begin construction next year. He noted that

public outreach meetings were held in March 2010 and comments were received on the proposed burn to remove Salt Cedar. Based on comments and discussion with BLM and the Yuma Growers Association, it was determined that the burn window would be best September/October or February/March. A question was asked whether the project was in Arizona or California. It was noted that most of the project was located in Arizona, but that around 200 acres of mesquite would be in California.

E-28: Yuma East Wetlands

John Swett reported that draft language for a Land Use Agreement had been reviewed by both the City of Yuma and Arizona Department of Fish and Game. He noted that the Quechan were having tribal elections in December and that a new tribal chair would be elected. John indicated that he was going to wait after the elections to meet with Quechan to discuss the land use agreement for the project with them. Once an agreement had been reached, Reclamation will bring the decision of whether to include the Yuma East Wetlands into the program back to the Steering Committee.

E-21: Planet Ranch

Laura Vecerina reported that discussions with Freeport McMoRan over acquisition of Planet Ranch were still on-going. A meeting had been scheduled in Washington DC to discuss long-term security of water rights.

6. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina reviewed the current Steering Committee Schedule. She noted that The First Five-Year River Tour was scheduled for March 15-17, 2011. The next Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for April 27th.

7. OTHER

Updated voting list

The current voting list was included in the Steering Committee briefing materials. It was requested that any changes be sent to Laura Vecerina at LVecerina@usbr.gov.

Public Outreach Efforts

Nathan Lenon will be working on outreach and the hope was to put together a group of Steering Committee member to work on outreach with him. Anyone interested should contact Laura Vecerina.

8. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on eight items.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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